

9 November 1964

DIA DECLASSIFICATION/RELEASE INSTRUCTIONS ON FILE

MEMO FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: OBI Visit by DIA Inspector General's Officer

1. This morning a caller identifying himself as Col. Gullion of the DIA IG staff phoned whether he could see me today in re DIA Production Center's participation in the NIS Program. He said their annual survey of the Production Center had reached the "interface" stage and, when I asked if Gen Maples' staff knew of this proposed visit, said they were directly or inferentially aware of it. Because it seemed to me that the interagency aspects would have indicated introductory or parallel call from Maples' staff, and in any event to more clearly identify the caller, I phoned Col. Early; he authenticated Col. Gullion (LtCol Allen W., USAF) and his function, seemed somewhat embarrassed about the procedure followed, and thanked me for getting in touch.

2. Our half-hour discussion was quite informal and generally non-specific. In response to his question as to whether DIA as successor to the several services was performing adequately in quantitative and qualitative terms in their contributions to the NIS, I said that after an initial shakedown period the Production Center was approximating our former experience with the several services. I deliberately led the conversation in the direction of my observation that the quality of essentially all types of intelligence could be improved if an increased magnitude of effort could be applied. I coupled this with my comment that I was concerned about the pervasive current tendency to so stress the more sexy types of intelligence as to seriously impair such fundamental materials as the NIS, thereby requiring crash analysts to devote much ill-spent time to digging out the basics and in effect representing a somewhat pennywise-and-pound-foolish situation. Incidental to this I stressed the programmed and non-crystal-ball nature of the NIS Program and the many times that this had paid off. Mindful of but without any reference to DIA's current major reduction in the production of Military Geography contributions to the NIS, I also stressed my concern that this type of very basic coverage be continued and maintained; on Col. Gullion's statement that DIA seemed to feel the world had largely been covered and therefore this effort could be slacked off or in large part terminated, I re-played the old tape about initial research having seldom been as thorough as possible, the likely accumulation of significant new information even on the physical fundamentals during a period of 10 years, and particularly significant changes in user requirements which dictate a considerable re-treatment of basic conditions even if not found to have been changed per se.

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1. Col. Gullion said he had been a user of the NIS, notably with a Strike Air component at a Southwest base and had found that it accomplished the mission I had outlined. Incidentally he mentioned that he had been quite discouraged while an attache in South and Central Africa because he had filed a considerable volume of reports and had subsequently come to the conclusion that little if any use was made of them because of the then low priority for the area and the absence of such a collating effort as the NIS.

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2. [redacted] at OCI had phoned [redacted] that Gullion had arranged an appointment with him. I explained to Col. Gullion that [redacted] would represent little or no interface with DIA and suggested that perhaps our conversation might suffice, but he indicated he intended to see Martin anyway.

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[redacted]
Assistant Director
Basic Intelligence

AD/BINA

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